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## News Release

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### **Secretary Jewell Presents 2013 *Partners in Conservation Awards***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today presented the Department of the Interior’s 2013 *Partners in Conservation Awards* to 20 public-private partnerships that have achieved exemplary conservation results through cooperation and community engagement. Together, the 20 award-winning partnerships include recipients representing more than 260 organizations and individuals from across the United States and the world.

“The Department of the Interior is proud to recognize the accomplishments of those who are innovating and collaborating in ways that address today’s complex conservation and stewardship challenges,” Secretary Jewell said at an awards ceremony at the Interior headquarters in Washington today. “These partnerships represent the gold standard for how Interior is doing business across the nation to power our future, strengthen tribal nations, conserve and enhance America’s great outdoors and engage the next generation.”

The *Partners in Conservation Awards* recognize outstanding examples of conservation legacies achieved when the Department of the Interior engages groups and individuals representing a wide range of backgrounds, ages and interests to work collaboratively to renew lands and resources.

At the annual awards ceremony, the Department of the Interior celebrated conservation achievements that highlight cooperation among diverse federal, state, local and tribal governments; public and private entities; non-profit organizations; and individuals. Several awards also have bi-national or international partners.

Welcoming senior leaders from the Government of Mexico, for example, Secretary Jewell was pleased to present an award to the “Minute 319 Bi-National Partnership” for implementation of the recent agreement between Mexico and the United States to cooperate on Colorado River water use and environmental issues. She also recognized the “Huron Erie Corridor Initiative” for cooperation on the international boundary between Canada and the United States.

The award winners also include innovative science research conservation partnerships such as the “Rigs to Reefs” and the “Ocean Renewable Energy Stewardship” programs, as well as landscape-level habitat restoration and conservation partnerships such as the Cienega Watershed in Arizona and Edwards Aquifer Initiative in Texas.

Other partnerships prepare America’s youth to be the next generation of environmental stewards for public lands through participation in corps, service learning, STEM and other educational and employment experiences. Examples of winning partnerships with a strong youth component include the Groundwork USA Network, Klamath Tribal Leadership Program, Center for Land Based Learning, Great Plains Nature Center and others.

As an example of the scope and diversity of the 2013 winning partnerships, the “Minute 319 Bi-National Partnership” award recognizes agencies of the Mexico government, states in the Colorado River Basin, and

water users and environmental organizations in both countries as well as partners from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Likewise, the U.S.-Canada “Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative” brings together 34 federal, tribal, First Nation, state, provincial, local and nongovernmental groups.

Diverse partners in “The “Atlantic Canyons - Pathways to the Abyss” partnership include Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and USGS; the Commerce Department’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; nine universities and colleges, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; and four other private research organizations, museums and institutes. They collaborate on the use of robotic underwater vehicles and other cutting-edge tools to discover and research deep-water coral habitats.

A list of this year’s twenty award-winning partnerships follows.

***Photos from today’s ceremony are available upon request.***

***Cienega Watershed Partnership, Arizona***

*Nominated by the Bureau of Land Management*

***Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative, Arizona, Utah***

*Nominated by the Bureau of Land Management*

***University of Nevada Cooperative Extension - Bootstraps Program, Nevada***

*Nominated by the Bureau of Land Management*

***Atlantic Canyons - Pathways to the Abyss, Mid-Atlantic Region/International***

*Nominated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management*

***Ocean Renewable Energy Stewardship Partnership, National***

*Nominated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management*

***Rigs to Reefs Policy, National***

*Jointly Nominated by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management*

***Cultural Resources Team of the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, Nevada***

*Nominated by the Bureau of Reclamation*

***Minute 319 Bi-National Partnership, International***

*Jointly Nominated by the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation*

***Center for Land Based Learning Partnership, California***

*Nominated by the Fish and Wildlife Service*

***Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program - Balancing the Needs of Wildlife, Water, and People, Texas***

*Nominated by the Fish and Wildlife Service*

***Great Plains Nature Center - An Urban Oasis for Wichita Area Youth and Conservationists, Kansas***

*Nominated by the Fish and Wildlife Service*

***Klamath Tribal Leadership Development Program for Integrative Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, California, Oregon***

*Nominated by the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs*

***The Groundwork USA Network, National Program***

*Nominated by the National Park Service*

***American Samoa Rainforest Partnership, American Samoa***

*Nominated by the National Park Service*

***Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Flight 93 Reforestation Project, Pennsylvania***

*Nominated by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement*

***AMD Treat Software Partnership, Pennsylvania and West Virginia***

*Nominated by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement*

***Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, Alaska***

*Nominated by the United States Geological Survey*

***Huron Erie Corridor Initiative Partnership, International***

*Nominated by the United States Geological Survey*

***Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership, California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington***

*Nominated by the United States Geological Survey*

***Restoring Threatened and Endangered Fishes of the Truckee River Watershed, California***

*Nominated by the United States Geological Survey*

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